



**Town of West Newbury
Select Board
WEDNESDAY, March 29, 2023 @ 6:15pm
381 Main Street, Town Office Building
www.wnewbury.org
AGENDA**

Open Session: The open session was called to order at 6:24pm by Chairman Archibald.

Participation at the meeting:

- David Archibald, Richard Parker, Wendy Reed- Select Board Members
- Walt Burmeister, Ross Capolupo, Daniel Innes, Dan James, Rob Phillips, Jim Spelakis, Chris Wile- Finance Committee
- James Blatchford- Town Clerk
- Angus Jennings- Town Manager

Regular Business

A. Joint Meeting with Finance Committee: Review and discuss budgets and articles for spring Annual and Special Town Meeting

Finance Committee member Phillips had a suggestion regarding the Water Commission instructions which he had distributed at the meeting **Phillips motioned to accept the instructions for the Water Commission Article 5. Finance Committee member Wile seconded.** There was discussion, Finance Committee members suggested presenting this portion of article/motion at Town Meeting. Phillips felt something similar to the wording he presented regarding a financial audit or long-term reporting must be done as soon as possible. Archibald also believes agreement with Newburyport over water may be more important at this point. Phillips believes both could be presented at town meeting however did not feel a long list of directions would be needed. Phillips feels with instructions it would ensure participation from the Water Commission in the review and the final report would show any needs/changes. Select Board also feels any future contracts need review and are in need further oversight so no contracts/agreements are signed solely by water without procurement/approval. Currently the Select board is trying to use its leverage with Newburyport and the current project linking the reservoirs to get a discussion on water rates with West Newbury. The Finance Committee will write a rationale for Article/instructions and why this particular motion is going to be made for instructions to the Water Commission. There was an additional question regarding retirement for Water employees and is their budget adequate. The Select Board feels an added instruction regarding any future intermunicipal agreements is needed specifically for the negotiating unit and signatories. Additional comments regarding long term regional agreements especially with larger cities, i.e., Haverhill, Amesbury, Newburyport, may become necessary. Select Board asked the Town Clerk to work with the Town Manager on wording of motion to present to the Select Board at their next meeting.

Archibald motioned to adjourn the session. Parker seconded. The motion unanimously passed. (3 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstain). The session adjourned at 7:48pm.